

2010 National Cadet Competition Awards

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National Cadet Competition in McMinneville, Oregon

The Utah Wing Titan Drill Team returned home Monday to catch up with lives they left behind months ago when making the commitment to train and study every weekend and in all of their free time as well. Members and escorts put in countless hours dotted here and there with a little fun and lots of team-time, to compete in the most grueling of all cadet national activities, the National Cadet Competition.

In the history of the Competition only a couple of regions took home both Drill Team and Color Guard trophies (CG started competing in 1996). This year, Rocky Mountain Region took home only one Team trophy—Colorado Color Guard took 2nd place as runners-up to the Southeast Region, who took both trophies. However, a story never ends that simply!

Utah's Drill Team Captain, 2d Lt Zack Hopkins, scored the highest score in the written exam, and Utah's Drill Team took 1st place in the Panel Quiz. That was AWESOME! They were also 2nd place in Standard and Innovative Drills. It seems that the strength of the team is spread over a range of physical, mental and leadership areas. Zack Hopkins did the mile run at 4:52 and he sure looked like the fastest. Another cadet sheared about 8 seconds off that to win the Fleet Foot.

It is sometimes a mystery to understand just how the scoring works. We knew the teams were all very close. And though Utah's Drill Team was sharp, fast, and perfect, so were all the other teams this year. In fact, points were so tightly spread that in the outcome, there were numerous ties! That rarely happens at the national level.

Let's have a hats-off to our Drill Team for their stellar performance and hard work, and make another commitment to the next Team. With plenty of support from all members and lots of mentoring from the Titan Team members, we will undoubtedly come out on the top.

Congratulations to our Cadet Team. They are:

2d Lt Zach Hopkins, Cache Valley Composite Squadron
Lt Col Cheston Newhall, Thunderbird Composite Squadron
CMSgt Holden Hardcastle, Cache Valley Composite Squadron
MSgt Gideon Nason, Thunderbird Composite Squadron
MSgt Brook Newhall, Thunderbird Composite Squadron
TSgt Ethan Hansen, Cache Valley Composite Squadron
MSgt Kaitlyn Cope, Phantom Squadron, (Woody Walton Award)

2d Lt McKelle Tobey, Cache Valley Composite Squadron
Maj Arielle Weeks, Thunderbird Composite Squadron (CAC Chairperson)
MSgt Juan Cueto, Cache Valley Composite Squadron
MSgt Tristan Reeve, Blackhawk Cadet Squadron
SMSgt Stetson West, Phantom Squadron
2d Lt Andrew Fage, Phantom Squadron

Escorts: Capt Kathleen Hobbs, Phoenix Squadron
2d Lt Clifford Lynn Hopkins, Cache Valley Composite Squadron

Congratulations also to the members of the Colorado Color Guard Team, RMR. They are:

CMSgt Garrett Wachtel, Captain
SrAm Shamron Willison
STMSgt Jozef Szobo
SrAm Trevor Cox
SrAm Sydney Heart

Escorts Maj Eric Thompson
Maj Denise Thompson



